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PTQ9758

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B6PAGE 01 CARACA 00654 01 OF 03 102046Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	PERC-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-01	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/010W

-----420431 102046Z /38

R 101910Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0114
INFO WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPLOMATIC POST
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USINT HAVANA
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
NSC WASHDC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 CARACAS 000654

NSC FOR LLORENS
USCINCSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR DCHA/OTI--PORTER
GUATEMALA FOR DCM MCFARLANE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/09/2013

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TAGS: PGOV, CASC, VE
SUBJECT: THE STRIKE LEAVES OPPOSITION DEMORALIZED AND
DIVIDED

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. SHAPIRO. REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY
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B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/RPS
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 9 MAR 2013
DATE/CASE ID: 10 JUN 2005 200404747

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B1

BEWITCHED, BOTHERED, AND BEWILDERED

2.

B1

INTERPRETATIONS OF THE
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SUCCESS OF THE GENERAL STRIKE VARY WIDELY, FROM SOME, LIKE
PUBLICLY CALLING IT A "VICTORY"
BECAUSE IT SHOWED CHAVEZ AS THE AUTOCRAT THAT HE IS, TO
OTHERS, LIKE THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY, WHOSE LEADERS HAVE
PUBLICLY TERMED IT A DISASTER. WITH SOME, A TYPE OF DENIAL
HAS SET IN:

B6

B1

3.

B1

IN PARTICULAR, PEREZ HAS
BEEN UNDER REPEATED FIRE FROM THE MEDIA FOR HIS ALLEGED
INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH VICE PRESIDENT RANGEL.

B1

BUT DCC MEMBERS HAVE PUBLICLY STATED
THE NEW REORGANIZATION WOULD NOT MEAN THE COMMITTEE
TRANSFORMATION INTO A POLITICAL PARTY.

B1

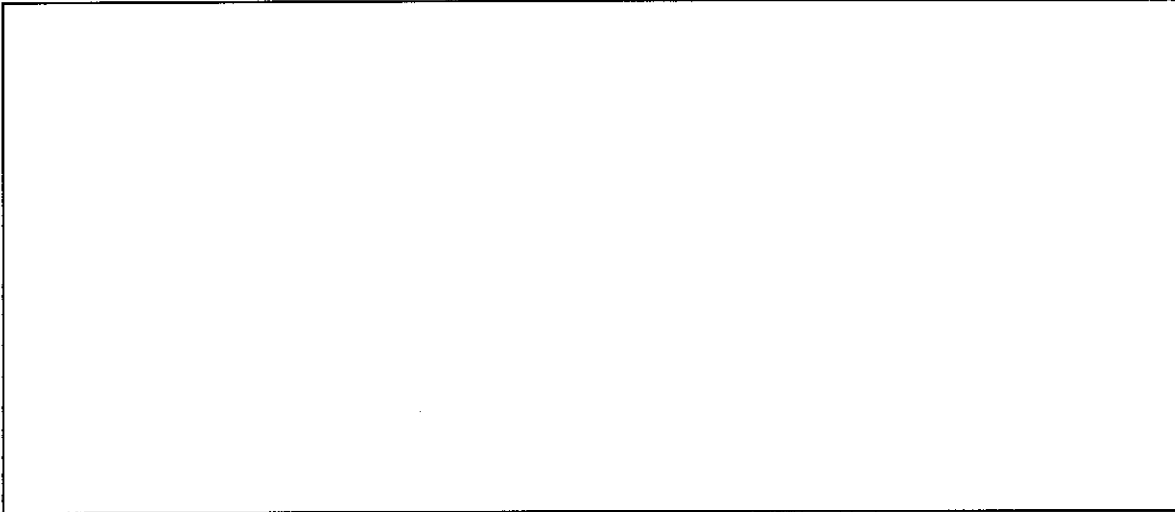
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WAITING FOR THE RECALL



B1

A POX ON BOTH HOUSES

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-----42044A 102046Z /38

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5.

[REDACTED]

B1

POLL TAKEN IN EARLY FEBRUARY
STILL HAS 42 PERCENT OF VENEZUELAN'S IDENTIFYING WITH THE
OPPOSITION (AS OPPOSED TO 31 PERCENT FOR CHAVEZ), BUT THE
POLL, IN A DRAMATIC CHANGE, INDICATES THAT 27 PERCENT OF
VENEZUELAN'S WHO HAD FORMERLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE DCC, NOW ARE
ALIENATED FROM BOTH CAMPS.

B1

[REDACTED]

6. (SBU) THIS NEW GROUP, TERMED "FAST TRACK" BY THE PRESS
BECAUSE IT CLINGS TO THE HOPE OF A MILITARY OUSTER,

B1

[REDACTED]

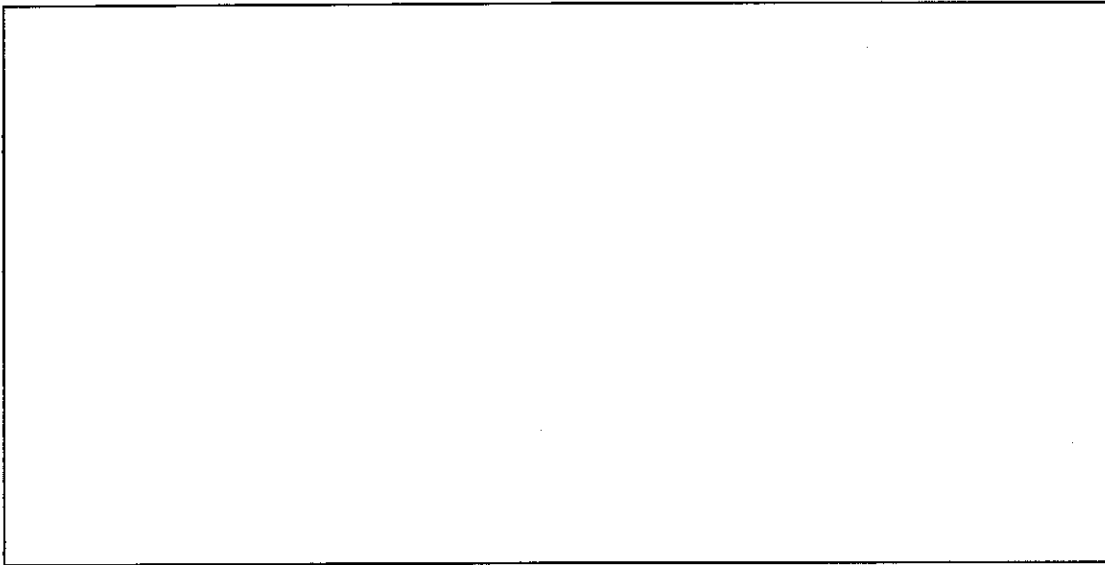
MAINSTREAM OPPOSITION
GROUPS DISCOUNT THE DEMOCRATIC BLOC'S INFLUENCE. (BUT IT
SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IT HELD AN EVENT ON FEBRUARY 25 THAT
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ATTRACTED SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE TO
HEAR POLEO AND COMPANY SPEAK.)

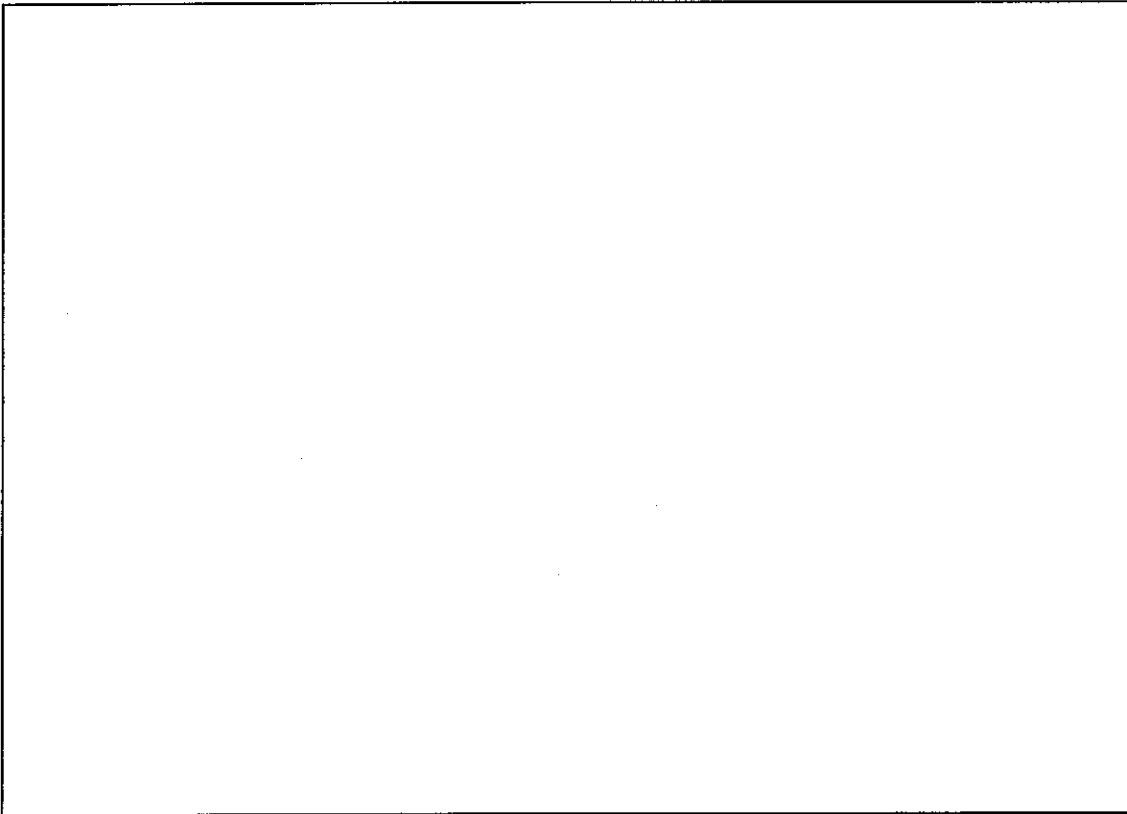
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CANDIDATE SELECTION COULD CAUSE MORE HEADACHES



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